

**City of Bloomington Traffic Commission Minutes  
October 26, 2016 in the Council Chambers, City Hall**

*Traffic Commission minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings of the meeting are available in the Planning and Transportation Department for reference.*

**Attendance**

Traffic Commission: James Batcho, Andrew Cibor, Ryan Cobine, Markeus Farrand, Judi Maki, Abigail Pietsch, and Sarah Ryterband

Others in Attendance: Evan Batcho, James Brosher, Neil Kopper (Staff), Nate Nickel (Staff) and Scott Robinson (Staff)

- I. Call to Order** (~5:30 PM)
- II. Approval of Minutes** – September 28, 2016. Mr. Cibor sent several edits to staff and motioned to approve the minutes with those corrections; Mr. Farrand seconded. **The motion passed 6-0.**
- III. Public Comment** – none.
- IV. Communications from Commission** – none
- V. Reports from Staff** - Mr. Kopper provided an update regarding the planned Rogers Road multi-use path. The design for this is prioritized for MPO funding in Fiscal Year 2017, which has already started. A search is underway to select an engineering consultant, and once that is complete, the design process will begin. He noted that this project should address the design of the Rogers/Stands intersection, which has been a source of concern for neighbors.
- VI. Old Business** - None
- VII. New Business** –
  - A. S. Fairview Street On-Street Parking\*** - Mr. Nickel provided an overview of this request to eliminate on-street parking restrictions as detailed in the packet. He explained the background and the goal of cleaning up the varied regulations in Title 15. Ms. Maki asked whether this proposal would apply to just the new bump-out parking areas, or all of Fairview. Mr. Nickel said it would be for all of Fairview, but that could be changed by the Commission. Ms. Maki expressed concern about the narrow width of the street. Mr. Robinson explained that the street experiences low traffic volumes; the on-street parking could also act as a deterrent to speeding, which was originally a main concern of neighbors. Ms. Ryterband asked about traffic counts and data, plus ways to better protect pedestrians. Mr. Cibor gave several on-street parking restriction

options that could be implemented if issues did occur. Mr. Cobine asked to have the current parking regulations clarified. He felt this street would be a good area to eliminate restrictions and start fresh. Ms. Ryterband was interested in hearing more neighborhood feedback. She approved of finding ways to reduce traffic speeds for the neighborhood. Mr. Cobine motioned to make a positive recommendation to the City Council to eliminate the parking restrictions on Fairview Street and Mr. Cibor seconded. **The motion passed 6-1.**

**B. College Avenue/8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection – parking restrictions to improve sight distance\*** – Mr. Kopper gave an overview of this request to eliminate two parking spaces on College Ave. He noted that it originated through a request from Monroe County Commissioner Thomas relating to the County's new parking garage, which will be opening soon. Mr. Kopper said her original request was to open 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 2-way traffic, but he felt that this parking restriction would better address the situation. He also said that the project will add bump-outs at the intersection, plus the handicap accessible space would be maintained. Ms. Ryterband encouraged looking into additional bicycle parking in this area. Mr. Cobine motioned to restrict parking as proposed, Mr. Batcho seconded. **The motion passed 7-0.**

**C. Bike Code Changes** – Mr. Robinson presented the proposed changes to Title 15 regarding bicycles. He noted that it is draft language and that he is working with the City's Legal Department to further refine. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission already reviewed these changes. Mr. Batcho said that the current requirements for City bicycle registration and decals are not very helpful. Ms. Ryterband mentioned concern about bicyclists going the wrong way on a street when a sidewalk is available. She has often seen this on Bloomfield Road at night many times. She voiced her support for this measure. Mr. Cobine noted that bicyclists are already allowed to ride on the sidewalk if they are under a certain wheel diameter. Mr. Batcho said that kids are safer riding on sidewalks versus the street. Ms. Maki said that many sidewalks have a low pedestrian volume, like Jordan Avenue, so it would be more safe and efficient to have bicyclists use them rather than the street. Mr. Farrand noted that bicyclists are not allowed on the sidewalk on the Indiana University campus because there are so many people walking. He is an active pedestrian and is concerned about the mix of bicyclists and pedestrians being problematic. Ms. Maki asked about skate boards and roller skates being in compliance with the City Code. Mr. Robinson said that the City is trying to acknowledge all users of the transportation system. The goal is that if you are in the street, you should operate as a vehicle. This increases the safety context for all versus simply tailoring rules to the mode of travel. Mr. Kopper noted that this proposal also would bring the City's Code into better compliance with the State's Code.

Ms. Ryterband noted that lack of lights are an issue for many skateboarders and that education on the rules of the road is very important. Mr. Robinson agreed, noting the Civil Streets campaign to address this. Mr. Cobine motioned to make a positive recommendation to the City Council to approve the Title 15 changes and Mr. Farrand seconded. **The motion passed 7-0.**

- D. Parking Code Changes** – Mr. Robinson presented the proposed changes to Title 15 regarding parking. Mr. Cibor mentioned that the changes will permit back-in angled parking, but won't identify the precise locations for these spaces. He also said there are currently 22 permitted locations for private parking spaces. Several of these no longer meet the City's criteria, plus ADA requirements now make private parking spaces more difficult for the City to provide. As a result, it is now legally a good reason to eliminate this type of parking and find other options for those needing parking spaces. Mr. Cobine motioned to make a positive recommendation to the City Council to approve the Title 15 changes and Ms. Pietsch seconded. **The motion passed 7-0.**

#### **VIII. Traffic Inquiries –**

- A. E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street – request to reduce traffic speeds between Lincoln and Henderson Streets** – Mr. Nickel described the details of this request and that it originated as a constituent concern to Councilmember Piedmont-Smith. Mr. Broshner spoke and asked the Commission to explore various options that would lower traffic speeds. Ms. Ryterband asked about speed counts and traffic data. Mr. Cobine asked about the posted speed limit, as well if there were any bike facilities. Mr. Cibor said that it was signed 30 mph. Mr. Robinson said that this road is a signed bike route. Mr. Cobine noted that a bike lane could be added as a potential solution to lower traffic speeds. Ms. Ryterband agreed and said that this section would be a good candidate for a "road diet", but the traffic and speed data would first need to be studied. Mr. Broshner added that he would like to see a bike lane added here. Several Commissioners noted that the configuration of on-street parking could be modified to narrow the street width in order to reduce traffic speeds. Ms. Pietsch said that adding more stop signs might not be a good solution because she has noted people running the stop signs at the Henderson Street intersection. She agreed with Ms. Ryterband that more data would be needed before making a decision. Mr. Cibor said he was not convinced that simply adding a bike lane or on-street parking would reduce traffic speeds or increase the safety of bicyclists. Staff was directed to study the traffic and speed data for this section of E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street and report back to the Commission at a future date.

#### **IX. Adjournment (~6:40 PM)**

*Next meeting – November 16, 2016*

*\*Action requested*